

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and method for melting material in the annulus of an oil or gas well and thereby sealing the annulus to prevent shallow gas leakage and the like.

5 Conveniently, the material is positioned within the annulus between the production and surface casing of the well and above the well cement. A heating tool is lowered into position and provides the necessary heat to melt the material. The heating tool may be removed following the  
10 sealing of the annulus.

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DATE OF DEPOSIT: February 27, 2002

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING NUMBER E038616034US

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